



APR 2 6 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants

Neirynck et al

Application No.

09/498.046

Confirmation No.: 8244

Filed

February 4, 2000

Title

IMMUNOPRETECTIVE INFLUENZA ANTIGEN AND

ITS USE IN VACCINATION

Group Art Unit

1648

Examiner

Shanon A. Foley

New York, New York

April 18, 2002

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO DECEMBER 18, 2001 OFFICE ACTION

This responds to the December 18, 2001 Office Action. Kindly amend the application as follows.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 33 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 26-28, 31, 32, 38-40 and 46 as indicated below.

(Amended) An influenza antigen comprising a fusion product, said 26.

fasion product comprising

(i) an extracellular part of an M2 membrane protein of a human fighteenza

virus, or of a similar integral membrane protein of a human influenza B or C virus and

(ii) a presenting carrier,